

Sub 21

3. (Twice Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

an elongated material having two enlarged end portions and a narrowed portion intermediate said two enlarged end portions, one of said two enlarged end portions corresponding to a back region of said absorbent article; and

said elongated material comprising a fluid impermeable backsheet, a fluid permeable body-side liner attached to one side of said fluid impermeable backsheet, and a flap sheet attached to said fluid permeable body-side liner, said flap sheet including two opposed pleats and being expandable in a direction away from said fluid impermeable backsheet proximate said back region of said absorbent article, (whereby the pleats define a pocket therebetween for collection of fecal matter;)

wherein the two opposed pleats (are along opposite sides of said pocket) and disposed substantially parallel to a longitudinal centerline of said elongated material.

Sub 2

9. (Twice Amended) A disposable diaper comprising:

a fluid impermeable outer cover, a fluid permeable body-side liner attached to said fluid impermeable outer cover and a flap sheet attached to said fluid permeable body-side liner, said flap sheet including two opposed pleats and expandable in a direction away from said fluid impermeable outer cover (whereby a pocket is defined between the pleats) and formed inside said disposable diaper proximate a back region of said disposable diaper;

D1
C2
CONT

wherein (the discrete pleats) are disposed along opposed sides of said pocket and substantially parallel to a longitudinal centerline of said diaper.

C3

15. (Amended) A method for producing a disposable absorbent article comprising the steps of:

forming a substantially rectangular multi-layer material comprising a fluid impermeable backsheet, a fluid permeable body-side liner attached to one side of said fluid impermeable backsheet, and a flap sheet attached to said fluid permeable body-side liner whereby said body-side liner is disposed between said fluid impermeable backsheet and said flap sheet;

removing a portion of said material from opposed longitudinal edges of said substantially rectangular multi-layer material, producing two enlarged end portions and a narrowed portion intermediate said two enlarged end portions, one of said enlarged end portions corresponding to a back region of said disposable absorbent article; and

forming at least two discrete longitudinal pleats in said flap sheet proximate said back region along opposed sides of said flap sheet, the longitudinal pleats defining a pocket between said flap sheet and said body-side liner.

C4

sub 1

18. (Twice Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

an elongated material having two enlarged end portions and a narrowed